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R. Harris
 Soc. 4.01.2 OSS: The History
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Top secret papers found 'on public library shelves'

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — An "enormous amount" of top secret and secret government papers is available to the general public in libraries of major universities, says an author and former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency.

R. Harris Smith, author of the recently published "OSS: The Secret History of

America's First Central Intelligence Agency," said his research for the book included reading classified papers he found at Stanford University.

There are "hundreds of boxes of the stuff" at Stanford, including some documents so sensitive that Smith suggested to university officials they be removed from the public files and properly guarded, he said in an interview Monday.

"An enormous amount of top secret and secret information has been deposited in university libraries by former employees of the government," said Smith, a former analyst for the CIA. "You can walk in and read it—anybody can."

Government employees "just stuffed the material in their cars and took it home with them," he said. "Later they

left it with their papers in bequests to various universities. There's a lot of it floating around. And it still has top secret and secret stamps on it."

Smith said much of the material he saw dealt with pre-World War II topics but that some of it was less than 20 years old and "some of it is very recent."